

Service Date: October 29, 2003

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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IN THE MATTER of the Application	)	
of BLACK HILLS CORPORATION d/b/a	)	UTILITY DIVISION
BLACK HILLS POWER, Inc.	)	DOCKET NO. D2003.9.139
for Authority to Increase its Quarterly	)	DEFAULT ORDER NO. 6517
Fuel Rate Rider.	)	

**DEFAULT ORDER**

On September 23, 2003, Black Hills Corporation d/b/a Black Hills Power Inc. (BHP or Applicant) filed a petition with the Montana Public Service Commission pursuant to § 69-3-101 et seq., MCA, for an order authorizing the Applicant to increase its electric rates in order to reflect the increased cost of fuel used in the generation of electricity. The fuel costs concerned are for the months of June, July and August 2003.

On September 25, 2003, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing. A provision in that notice stated, "If, however, no hearing is requested by October 28, 2003, the Commission will consider the matter and a default order may be issued."

Having considered the application and the documentation furnished by the Applicant in support of its application and deeming itself fully advised in the premises, the Commission makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. If increased fuel costs for the months of June, July and August 2003, are to be recovered, a charge of \$.00092 must be added from to the base fuel cost of \$.01240 approved in Docket No. 83.4.25, which results in a total fuel charge of \$.01332 per kWh. The Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider will increase revenues by approximately \$2,886 above fuel costs authorized in Docket No. 83.4.25.

2. The number of customers presently being served in Montana is 35.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. The Commission has jurisdiction over parties and proceeding in this matter.
2. The resulting rate levels are reasonable and just.

### **ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider for the billing period of November and December 2003 and January 2004 is \$0.00092 per kWh. This charge shall be added to the base fuel cost approved in Docket No. 83.4.25.
2. The approved rates shall be effective for electric service rendered on and after November 1, 2003.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana, on this 28th day of October, 2003, by a vote of 5 - 0.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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BOB ROWE, Chairman

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THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Vice Chairman

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GREG JERGESON, Commissioner

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MATT BRAINARD, Commissioner

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JAY STOVALL, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Connie Jones  
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request the Commission to reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See ARM 38.2.4806.